

[Mrs. Ella Cox]

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Range-lore

Nellie B. Cox

San Angelo, Texas.

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RANGE-LORE

"All the hardships of pioneer days did not consist of fighting Indians", says Mrs. Ella Cox who is now 81 years old. "When I was a young girl, I lived in Washington County near Brenham and was married there to James Monroe Cox when I was 17 years old. We bought and paid for a small farm there but after a few years we sold it and moved to Kerrville, Texas. This long, long trip was made in wagons, one drawn by oxen and the others by horses. A boy drove our milk cows. We passed through San Antonio which was then very small and dirty, I thought. C.12 - 2/11/41 - Texas 2 All I saw were soldiers and Mexicans and I was more afraid of the Mexicans than I would have been of Indians.

"When we got to Kervville, Mr. Cox unloaded our stuff in the house and started the next day to San Antonio to take the men who had helped us move back that far as he had promised to do when we had left Washington County. My husband left with me \$1500, as he did not want to take it with him. I didn't know what to do with that money. I put it first one place, then another and finally at night put it into my shoe. Then in the night I thought that rats or mice might get it so I held it in my hands all night and was thankful I didn't have any more.

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"When Mr. Cox came back, he went to work for Captain Schreiner who at that time owned nearly everything in that country. Captain Schreiner was a fine man, always helped everybody in anyway he could.

"Our place at Kerrville was on the Guadalupe River. One side of the cow pen was the bank of the river. We had a windlass to let a bucket down into the river and drew up our water that way. I used to milk the cows in that pen and in those days when I was young and silly, I used to wish that all the cows would fall over that bluff into the river. I was afraid to leave the children in the house, so would bring them out and let them stay on the fenced side of the pen.

"My husband decided that we would come to this country and we moved here in 1886. The soldiers were here in the fort and there was very little town. We lived in a tent on our place north of town until we could get lumber hauled from Abilene to build a house.

"Mr. Cox took contracts for building fences and would be gone for weeks at a time. I could work in the day but at night I would be scared almost to death. I remember one night a drunk man rode up to the gate and started to get down. I was watching out the window. Our watch dog "Bull" would stand in the yard until the man would get nearly off then old Bull would run under the fence and the man would climb back on his horse. After several attempts, the man went on. The two oldest boys would have to go across from home to Red Bluffs on Red Creek to drive the milk cows home. The wolves used to get after them. I remember one time the boys were coming along home with old Bull walking with them. When the wolves would get too close, Bull would chase them away. The boys thought it funny but it wasn't to me.

"I was glad when things were more settled. I have never objected to taxes for we have so much better roads and other comforts. I have always enjoyed train trips. I liked the long one when I went to California several years ago. I like to ride fast in an automobile and may ride some day in an airplane aeroplane" . Range-lore

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mrs. Ella Cox, San Angelo, Texas, interviewed January 5, 1936.